**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

Complete the following, from Chapter 2, Online Communities, pgs, 51-58

**Website that support online communities**

**Wikis**

1. **Describe the nature of a wiki.**A Wiki is a website that allows users to enter and communally edit its content. The website may consist of any number of interlinked WebPages that can be edited via a web browser using a simple text editor or, in some cases, a simplified mark-up language.
2. **What are strengths of wikis?**Wikis allow multiple people to work on the one document and make edits after its completion. This means that the document has become the sum all of the users knowledge.
3. **Distinguish between, public, protected and private wikis.**A public wiki is a wiki that is open to editing and observation by any user. A protected page is where any user may observe the page but only specific members can edit them, and a private wiki is where only members can observe or edit the wiki.
4. **What is meant by soft security?**Soft security refers to security that protects something in a discreet way, normally applied invisibly and after the crime, whereas hard security is usually referred to as visible barriers that try to stop the crime from happening.

**Blogs**

1. **What is a blog?**A blog is a website that can be defined as an online diary or journal. It has one main page that has regular updates and will quite often have links to relevant pages.
2. **Distinguish between a blog and a wiki.**A blog is different to a wiki in that it will normally only be updated by one person. Although blogs will not allow people to edit the main content they will usually have a sidebar or the like for which users can leave comments.

**Forums**

1. **Describe the nature of a forum.**A forum is an online discussion site that allows online communities to facilitate information exchange.
2. **What is a thread?**A thread is a collection of posts, usually in chronological order, that are defined by a common title. E.g. the thread may be ‘off topic’ or an ‘introduce yourself’ thread.

**Purpose of an online community:**

1. **To broadcast information and events using various tools**
   1. **List tools for broadcasting information.**-A simple website-A blog set up for the organisation-An emailing mailing list-A Twitter account
   2. **What is a RSS feed?**RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication and allows users to receive content feeds from a variety of sources. E.g. news headlines
2. **To facilitate discussions, collaboration & information using tools**
   1. **What is required for collaborative problem solving to work well?**-the idea of a valued ‘team’  
      - A clear purpose-Clearly documented processes
   2. **Distinguish between synchronous and asynchronous collaboration.**Synchronous collaboration is the term used to describe collaboration in real time through chat or video conferencing. An example of this would be Skype or MSN chat. Asynchronous means that there is no timing involved in the exchange of data and every member may reply in their own time. Asynchronous collaboration includes mailing lists or forums. Such as in boxing on Facebook.
3. **To store and develop organisational knowledge**
   1. **List the tools for knowledge sharing and exchange.**Tools for knowledge sharing and exchange would be Wikis, Groupware, Microsoft SharePoint or Content Management systems.

**Characteristics of online communities, p 57**

**Be aware of the following:**In setting up an online community characteristics of communities need to be taken into account:

1. **Online communities appealing to gender groups**When setting up a website appealing to a specific gender the images, colours and of course content need to be considered. ‘Male’ websites are more likely to have dark colours and relevant pictures. A ‘female’ website will likely have lighter shades and contain images that appeal to females. Also females like to have more information to read.
2. **Online communities appealing to special needs**A good example of people with special needs is those who are visually impaired. Certain colours may not be used and the font size might be larger. There may also be fewer animations, advertisements and ‘busy’ icons. Also you may have a sound or voice over that the visually impaired can listen to.
3. **Online communities appealing to cultural needs**When setting up a website for cultural needs it is imperative that no one is offended by the way you display your information.
4. **Age-restrictive and age-targeted communities**Age restrictive websites will often contain content that is inappropriate for children or minors. This includes websites that contain mature content and adult websites. These website communities are usually locked to anyone under a certain age (depending on the website).

**Non-Technical Constraints on developing a website for a community, p 58**

1. **Ensuring privacy in an online community**
   1. **Describe the strategies that co-ordinators can put in place to decrease the risk of privacy attacks.  
      -**All membership requests are properly verified  
      -All passwords have a combination of letters, numbers and symbols  
      -Admin’s are quick to pounce on any odd or damaging behaviour
   2. **How does the Information Privacy Act protect privacy?**The information Privacy Act protects privacy by not allowing users to use collected data without consent. i.e. By making users make an account.
2. **Copyright in online communities**
   1. What copyright considerations need to be taken into account when setting up a community?  
      Is the user considering whether they own the images or test on the site and whether the user is infringing on the copyright of others by broadcasting discussions?
3. **Human rights requirements**
   1. **What is contained in the Human Rights & Responsibilities Charter that covers members’ freedom, respect, equality and dignity?  
      -**Encourage hate crimes  
      -Discriminate on the basis of gender, culture or sexuality  
      -Encourage the victimisation of members
4. **Social online protocols**
   1. **What is meant by online protocols?**Online protocols govern how members must act and how disagreements are resolved.